South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

SOUTH SALT LAKE

Summary

2022

The City of South Salt Lake established the Civilian Review Board (CRB) in June of 2021, to review the Use of Force by the South Salt Lake Police Department (SSLPD), with the original members selected on February 9, 2022. The first meeting of the Board was held March 1, 2022.

Over the first four months, the CRB focused primarily on training, with focus on: current statutes and case law covering department Use of Force, departmental policies and procedures, current departmental training, and de-escalation policies. In addition, the CRB received training classes from the National Organization for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE).

From July through December of 2022, the CRB reviewed Uses of Force by the SSLPD. The CRB reviewed 101 cases covering January-August 2022. The CRB watched Body or Dashcam video on 80% of those cases. The Board did not find any out of policy Use of Force in the cases during its 2022 reviews.

Significant Cases

Use of Deadly Force: At a special meeting held in Dec 2022, the Board reviewed the September 26, 2022 Use of Deadly Force. The CRB ultimately agreed the Use of Force was reasonable and within policy, the full findings can be found on page 5 of this report or on the City website.

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Building the CRB

The Civilian Review Board (CRB) Members were first chosen in February of 2022, after applications by members of the public and interviews by a screening committee that included leaders in our community. The Mayor then chose 7 members, 2 alternates and 1 advisory member, which were presented to the City Council for advice and consent. In addition, two members were replaced over the course of 2022, and 2 new alternates chosen as the previous alternates were elevated to full members.

The CRB elected its officers; Tina Nee, Chair and Jason Keffer, vice-chair for its inaugural year. Ms. Nee later resigned from the CRB and Joy Glad was subsequently elected as Chair.

Thank you to Tina Nee and Cassius Willis for your time serving on the CRB.

Starting in July, the CRB began reviewing Use of Force cases and by the end of the year had completed reviews from January through August 2022. The Board continues to focus on reducing the lag between Use of Force and CRB review, which has been impacted by software upgrades made by the department (completed Jan 2023).

In addition, the CRB made recommendations on an improved citizen complaint framework, available in Spanish and English. This form can be found at the Police Station or on the CRB website.

Membership

Joy Glad - Chair
Jason Keffer - Vice Chair
Zac Barnes - Member
Conrad Campos - Member
Lorrina Heisey - Member
Richard Lane - Member
Kevin Miller - Member
Tara Shupe - Alternate
Valerie Flattes - Alternate

Gary Cox - Advisory Member

Christina Nee - former member Cassius Willis - former member

CRB 2022 Training

Members of the CRB experienced a wide variety of training throughout 2022, including, but not limited to: Use of Force Policies and Reasonable Force, Record Keeping, Body and Dash Camera usage, Arrest Control Techniques, Police Service Dogs (K-9), NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement), IT Security, Open Public Meetings Act, De-escalation, Case Law, and the Duty to Intercede.

Members of the CRB also completed 17 ride-alongs with Patrol Officers and Sergeants.

For Question or Comments: https://sslc.gov/158/Civilian-Review-Board

2023 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at South Salt Lake City Hall, on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5
- July 10
- August 7
- September 11
- October 2
- November 6
- December 4

South Salt Lake City Hall 220 East Morris Avenue South Salt Lake, UT 84115 Phone: 801-483-6000

Recommendations

Department Cameras

The CRB and the SSL Police Department both identified a need for improved body worn cameras, as the model in use during 2022 required officers to activate it and did not maintain audio before activation.

As a result, the Department will be onboarding new cameras with a longer battery life, replaceable batteries, and a 24-hour recording window in which the Department can go back and review video.

Public Complaints

The Board also recommended a citizen complaint procedure, in which complaints can be brought directly to the Board, which has been implemented and can be found here, on the Board's website, and can be sent to any member of the Board.

Looking Forward

In addition to the recommendations above, the CRB will continue to focus on the following items:

Homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness are significant causes of police intervention in South Salt Lake, and as a result are amongst the leading factors in police use of force. We continue to focus on police interactions under these circumstances, while commending South Salt Lake for creating a state-leading Homeless Resource Officer program. Solving these issues is a complex challenge which requires solutions that extend beyond the Department.

The Department is hiring one Licensed Clinical Social Worker to assist in responding to calls, as part of a grant program Co-Responder Case Management, in partnership with the Department of Justice. The CRB looks forward to hearing about the efficacy of this program and is watching as other, similar programs are tried across the country.

The CRB intends to become more involved with the National Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) this year, sending members to its conference and maintaining outside training for the Board.

In addition, the Board continues to stay abreast of both local and national events, with an eye to where the Board might be proactive.

2022 Statistics

A Year in Review

Total Cases of police intervention (Year to Date*):

Total Number of Use of Force Cases: 101

Number of Written Use of Force Cases Reviewed by the CRB: 101

Dash Camera and Body Camera Reviewed by the CRB: 82

Number of Cases determined to be within State Statute and City Policy: 101

Number of Cases determined to be Out of State Statute or City Policy: 0

Number of Civilian Review Board Members:

7 Regular Members2 Alternate Members1 Advisory Member

*Year to Date: The cases reviewed by the CRB are dated from January 2022 through July 2022. The total number of cases are dated January 2022 through December 2022. The remainder of cases, August through December will be reviewed in 2023.

Commendations

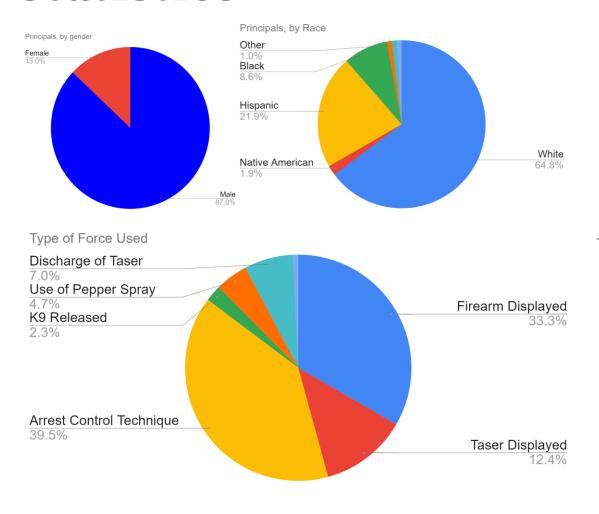
The CRB would like to commend the following groups and Officers:

The Homeless Resource Officer (HRO) group, implemented by South Salt Lake after Operation Rio Grande, works well with the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center PARC), (previously known as Men's Resource Center) and the Salt Lake Metropolitan Area homeless population, establishing rapport with residents and as a trusted partner to PARC.

The CRB would like to commend Officer Abrams, Officer Price, Officer Rogers, for resolving several cases with de-escalation techniques and patience.

Arrest Control Techniques and Use of Force, including restraint, remains an important piece of an officers' toolkit, albeit one with significant risk. In 2022, the SSLPD switched to a new training method for physical confrontations deemphasized pain compliance and offered more control. Initial studies show Gracie Survival Tactics trained officers are less likely to use force and when used, the training methods result in fewer and less serious injuries for both officers and suspects. The CRB commends the department for this change and recommends officers are proficient in the techniques taught. The CRB continues to focus on uses of Arrest Control Techniques and other Uses of Force, with a focus on necessity for safety and that such instances do not pose undue risk to the detainee.

Statistics



Definitions

Use of Force:

The amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject, including verbal instructions, physical restraint, less-than-lethal force, and lethal force.

Arrest Control Techniques: (ACT)

Techniques for Officers to use to control a subject, using restraints, grabbing, holds, wrestling, or other means of subduing a subject.

Police Service Dog: (PSD or K-9)

A police dog is trained to assist law enforcement duties including finding drugs, explosives, missing people, crime scene evidence, protecting people, or capturing subjects trying to flee or hurt others.

Statistics:

These graphs break down principals by race, gender and type of force used.

The board continues to track these in order to address potential issues

December 18, 2022

South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board's Findings on South Salt Lake Police Department's Use of Lethal Force

On September 26th, 2022, at approximately 11:45pm, two South Salt Lake Police Department officers, while responding to multiple 911 calls, shot and killed Jebb Muir in South Salt Lake, Utah. The Salt Lake County Officer Involved Critical Incident Response Team, responsible for investigation of deadly force by police, found that the officers' actions were reasonable and within policy.

The South Salt Lake Police Department Internal Affairs investigation concurs and South Salt Lake Police Chief Carruth recommends the two officers return to the force from administrative leave.

After reviewing the relevant evidence, including bodycam video and 911 recordings, the South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board agrees that the officers' actions were within Utah state statute and South Salt Lake Police policies. The below is a brief account of the incident and the rationale for this finding.

Earlier on September 26th, the South Salt Lake Police Department was called to Jebb's house for a civil standby. During that encounter, complainants alleged that Jebb was suffering with psychosis, suicidal ideation, and had previously barricaded himself in a house and prepared firearms during an encounter with police. At that time of the standby, Police did not observe significant signs of mental illness or violence.

At 11:10pm, Officers responded to a 911 call from Jebb; later two more related 911 calls would come in from other individuals. During this call, Jebb establishes his access to firearms and threatens Police Officers. As the department staged, an officer who had been present at the standby earlier that day called Jebb to try and resolve the situation without further escalation.

After a brief discussion, Jebb hung up. Officers later located Jebb two blocks away after a 911 caller reported a man threatening him with a rifle. As the first two arriving officers exited their car, Jebb reached for a shotgun and fired at officers. The two officers fired at Jebb, killing him.

Given the immediacy of danger to the public, the significant risk factors including known firearm possession, multiple threats against civilians and officers, and self-defense against lethal force, the South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board finds that the two officers' use of deadly force reasonable and within Utah state statute and South Salt Lake City police department policy. In connection with the events of September 26th, the board finds no reason the two officers should not return to active duty with the South Salt Lake Police Department. The board's findings were unanimous.

The board commends the two officers for their composure and discipline, particularly the officer who maintained his leadership and control over the situation after being struck in the head by buckshot. In addition, the board would like to commend the officer who reached out to the decedent, trying to use any rapport to resolve this incident without violence.

Signed,

On behalf of South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board

Jason Keffer,

Vice Chair, Civilian Review Board